



TENNESSEE WEEKLY
WEATHER AND CROP BULLETIN



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WET, COOL CONDITIONS DELAY FIELD ACTIVITIES

Several fronts passed through the state last week bringing rain and cooler temperatures to Tennessee, hindering most spring field activities. Wet conditions delayed planting of the State’s corn crop last week, but producers are still ahead of schedule. Planting should resume this coming week, as clear skies and warmer temperatures return. Most of the State’s winter wheat crop has been top-dressed with seventy percent of the acreage having jointed. The crop was rated in mostly good condition with no major insect or disease problems being reported. Other field activities during the past week included setting tomatoes, fertilizing hay and pastures, and preparing fields for planting cotton. Some Middle Tennessee growers were busy digging nursery crops. Temperatures averaged below normal statewide last week, while rainfall averaged below normal in the West but above normal in the Middle and Eastern parts of the state. There were only 2 days considered suitable for fieldwork last week. As of Friday, topsoil moisture levels were rated 1 percent short, 63 percent adequate, and 36 percent surplus. Subsoil moisture levels were rated 78 percent adequate, and 22 percent surplus.

CROP PROGRESS: Through April 13, 2003					CONDITION: On April 11, 2003					
Crop	This Week	Last Week	2002	Five Year Avg.	Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Exc
Percent					Percent					
Winter Wheat - Jointed	70	52	73	82	Winter Wheat	0	4	18	60	18
Corn - Planted	36	28	22	27	Pastures	0	2	23	59	16
Apples - Budding or Beyond	83	75	82	89						
Apples - Blooming or Beyond	62	38	47	63						
Peaches - Budding or Beyond	96	87	96	98						
Peaches - Blooming or Beyond	77	62	72	87						

CORN: Although cold, wet weather and soggy fields hampered corn planting, progress, at 36 percent, was ahead of last year and the 5-year average. Cloudy weather and cooler temperatures have also slowed the rate of corn emergence. Growers are hoping for drier conditions to resume planting.

WHEAT: The majority of wheat was rated in mostly good condition. Wheat jointed, at 70 percent, advanced 18 percentage points ahead of the week earlier, but lagged 12 points behind normal. There have been no reports of serious insect or disease problems.

FRUIT: Development of both the apple and peach crops continued to make good progress. As of Sunday, 77 percent of the peach and 62 percent of the apple trees were in the blooming or beyond stage. There were a few reports of damage to the State’s peach crop as a result of last week’s cold weather.

PASTURES: Pastures were rated in good-to-fair condition. The cooler temperatures experienced last week slowed the growth of some spring grasses in a few areas. Growers continued to spray for weeds and apply fertilizers, as the weather allowed.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION For week ending: 04/14/03 (with comparisons)										
LOCATION	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION				GDD BASE 60F	
	Week Ending 04/14/03				Current Week	Rain	Current	From	Since April 1	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	04/14/03	Days	Since January 1	Normal	Total	DFN
Ames_Plantation	80	37	53	-8	1.57	2	16.68	+0.45	31	-4
Tri-City_RGNL_A	71	35	51	-4	3.53	5	15.53	+3.73	9	+9
Brownsville_TN	80	37	53	-8	1.27	2	14.11	-1.97	25	+11
Chattanooga/Lov	77	40	56	-3	2.73	4	17.89	+0.17	28	+11
Clarksville_Sew	79	33	54	-3	0.93	4	11.64	-4.06	28	+9
Cookeville	74	36	51	-5	3.20	4	20.45	+3.38	18	+18
Covington	80	37	52	-7	0.59	1	13.41	-2.61	21	-3
Crossville_AP	73	34	51	-3	4.90	5	20.06	+2.89	21	+18
Dickson_AG	78	33	54	-4	0.76	3	14.30	-1.92	22	+2
Dover_1W	78	33	51	-6	1.21	3	13.59	-2.51	20	+7
Dyersburg	75	39	52	-9	0.94	2	11.08	-3.73	24	-6
Erwin_1W	71	35	50	-3	3.21	5	14.81	+1.57	3	-10
Huntingdon_Wate	78	36	52	-6	0.84	2	14.40	-1.39	24	+9
Jackson_AG	78	36	52	-7	0.87	3	12.14	-3.29	24	+1
Kingston_AG	75	38	52	-4	3.85	4	17.24	-0.84	10	+6
Knoxville_AP	73	38	53	-4	3.77	4	18.23	+3.23	15	+4
Lewisburg	79	33	51	-6	1.14	4	15.24	-1.38	23	+10
Lexington_TN	78	35	52	-6	1.53	2	14.22	-0.97	19	+19
Linden	80	31	52	-6	1.64	3	18.81	+1.71	28	+13
Martin	77	36	51	-6	1.49	2	13.31	-2.14	18	+1
Mc_Minnville_Tn	77	35	55	-3	1.75	5	16.54	+0.10	22	-3
Memphis_AG	82	36	53	-9	0.92	2	13.52	-2.34	24	-17
Milan	78	36	52	-6	1.31	2	14.34	-1.38	23	+6
Murfreesboro_5N	78	35	51	-6	1.62	3	16.37	+0.64	23	-15
Nashville_Metro	78	35	53	-6	1.94	4	15.41	+1.29	31	+11
Newcomb	74	36	50	-3	5.44	4	18.11	+2.28	19	+19
Oneida	74	36	50	-3	4.84	5	17.33	+1.50	14	-7
Pikeville	75	37	56	-2	2.99	5	18.72	+1.58	18	+5
Portland_TN	76	33	50	-6	2.11	5	14.67	-0.55	19	+10
Pulaski_Water_P	77	35	52	-9	2.67	4	20.11	+2.67	25	+0
Savannah_6SW	77	37	52	-9	1.86	3	17.79	-0.01	16	+0
Sparta_TN	79	35	55	-3	2.78	5	18.54	+1.97	23	+15
Springfield	76	35	50	-6	1.45	4	12.72	-2.04	21	+10
Springhill	82	36	53	-4	1.39	4	18.45	+1.61	25	+12
Union_City	77	35	50	-7	1.85	3	14.45	-0.82	14	+0
Waynesboro_TN	80	30	51	-6	2.63	5	18.99	+0.84	21	+4

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period). GDD = Growing Degree Days.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more. Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
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